

Title I Community Advisory Committee Meeting

February 23, 2015

MCPS Admin Building, Room 14

6:00 to 7:30 PM

Page | 1

Attendees: Heather Davis Schmidt, Sindie Kennedy, Connie Sage, Seena Demmons, Julie Robitaille, Brian Bessette, Wendy Melvin, Matthew Quinlan, Tracy Ledyard, Amanda Dellwo, and Stephanie Marrow

Unable to Attend: Natalie Jaeger, David Rott, Erica Ramsey, Natalie Hensley, Tammy Reschke and Leslie Gallant will no longer be able to attend the Community Advisory Committee

Heather started out the meeting with everyone introducing themselves. Heather thanked all and explained that during this meeting she will be talking about the 2015-2016 budget as well as the changes that will be taking place in the Instructional Coach model. Heather also stated that she had had a chance to visit with the Title I principals and see how well they feel we are doing and what they feel we need to improve on. With this information Heather was able to develop a Mid-Year Plus Delta on this information and will be sharing this at this meeting. At the end of the meeting Heather asked that everyone fill out the Exit Ticket.

Heather stated there was good news out of the Federal Government. Additional Title I funds were allocated to States from the Federal level for the 2014-15 year. Plus, the President's budget proposal includes a decrease in grant funding and an increase in Title I funding. This could result in an increased allocation of Title I funds to Montana. It is possible we could receive re-allocated Title I funds this year or these funds could be added to the 2015-16 allocation. It is also possible the State will choose to keep any additional funds to support programming at the State level. We are hopeful at this point that we will not see any decreases and may even see a small increase next year. Of course, we can only speculate at this time. The State will provide preliminary allocation amounts close to the timing of the Meeting of Practitioners on March 20th. The budgets presented at the meeting could change by March 20th. Heather felt confident in moving forward with the No Change 2015-2016 Budget and not using the 2% decrease budget. She was hopefully we would be able to announce a slight increase. The Meeting of Practitioners will be at the Business Building on March 20th in the AM. A healthy breakfast will be served.

2015-2016 BUDGET DISCUSSION: All budgets were shared with building principals earlier than the Community Advisory Committee Meeting as Heather feels it is very helpful to give a heads up. The first budget discussed was the K8 No Change budget. In this budget, the District level is receiving no cuts and the 1.58 million is exactly the same as received last year. Heather went on to review all the areas of the budget. Heather stated the areas on the budget that are in blue are District required set-asides. Title I law requires a 10% set-aside for AYP (i.e. school choice). We do not have any schools that are meeting AYP (Julie Robitaille stated there was no way to really measure this). As such, these funds are not used for AYP and are utilized to cover FRC and FIT salaries.

Title I Community Advisory Committee Meeting

February 23, 2015

MCPS Admin Building, Room 14

6:00 to 7:30 PM

Page | 2

The SES category is also a ten percent (10%) set-aside. Supplemental Education Services translates to extra academic support (e.g., tutoring) for eligible students. To be eligible for SES, a student must attend an identified school and be eligible for free or reduced meals. The OPI identifies schools eligible for SES services based on the number of years a school has not met AYP. In our district, those schools are only C.S. Porter, Big Sky High School and Hellgate High School. We do use about \$50,000 each semester to cover the costs of SES. The remaining funds are re-distributed as carryover to buildings for summer programs or professional development. The K-8 Title I building principals have been allocated \$5,000 in carryover funds this year and have until March 15, 2015 to submit their plans, budgets and spending requests.

The next area in blue on the budget is the Homeless set-aside. The number 66 is multiplied by the per pupil amount to determine the allocation. This allocation covers FIT coordinator salaries. The count of 66 represents all homeless students in non-Title I K-8 buildings, as of January 2015. January numbers were used to maintain consistency with the Free & Reduced numbers used to determine building allocations. The Neglected and Delinquent (N&D) numbers are derived by Sindie with assistance from the district data manager. The students counted for this allocation are student's residing in a group home. This number is based on a January count.

Amanda Dellwo stated she is concerned regarding the number 66 for the homeless count. She wanted to know when that number was taken. She would like to push harder with FIT Coordinators to increase this number. Heather agreed and stated that this is fine but while we are allocating to the schools we are also using other resources for support. Julie Robitaille would also like to discuss FIT. Wendy Melvin had a family that went to Porter that were FIT but then found housing. Julie Robitaille wanted to know if they start as FIT, do they stay as FIT for the entire year. Sindie Kennedy stated they would stay at the school of origin if they wanted to for the entire year. If they start as a FIT they do stay as FIT the entire year and this also includes inactive students (which are included in the homeless count). Julie Robitaille stated that Porter has 11 FIT families and they are automatically qualified for Free and Reduced. Heather stated that we would get to this discussion when we get to the budget.

The remainder of the District set-asides covers Administration costs which include Sindie Kennedy's and Connie Sage's salaries. Substitutes are planned for in cases of long-term illness or maternity leave in order to not impact the building if either of these scenarios would occur.

Parent Involvement is a one percent (1%) set-aside but 95% of this is required to go to buildings. Five percent (5%) of the Parent Involvement budget is used at the district level for trainings and meetings with FRC/FIT coordinators. The FRC/FIT coordinators are highly beneficial, therefore Heather is committed to funding those positions with Title I district funds. The money at the bottom of the budget is what is allocated for Parent Involvement.

Professional Development is a required ten percent (10%) set-aside. DIBELS is used for K3 Title I buildings

Title I Community Advisory Committee Meeting

February 23, 2015

MCPS Admin Building, Room 14

6:00 to 7:30 PM

Page | 3

only. There has been discussion at to use the electronic version of DIBELS district-wide. This would mean Title I would no longer cover any DIBELS costs. Due to the significant cost to move from the paper version to the electronic version, this transition has not occurred. Therefore, Title I will continue to cover the costs for Title I DIBELS implementation. The District Title I budget covers the cost of SuccessMaker licenses and annual maintenance fees. Every K8 Title I school has 20 or more SuccessMaker licenses (with two buildings having site licenses). Five licenses were purchased this year for each non-Title I school in order to meet the requirement to provide Title I academic services to all homeless and Neglected & Delinquent (N&D) students in non-Title I schools. Previously, we contracted with WORD to coordinate tutoring services in non-Title I schools in order to meet the academic requirements for homeless students. That model was not working, since most of the tutors were University students and their school schedules were shorter than the K8 schedule. Sindie will meet with each non-Title I K8 building principal to conduct a Plus/Delta survey pertaining to SuccessMaker. She will also meet with each FIT coordinator and ask for feedback on what is working and what changes are desired.

The supplies budget is for the district Title I office in order to cover the costs of operations (such as printer cartridges, office supplies, postage, and printing costs). The Indirect Costs are a specific percentage determined by OPI (right now, it is 3.2%).

Julie Robitaille wanted to know how to determine poverty. Heather used Lowell as example to demonstrate how the band of poverty is determined. When looking at the enrollment numbers, 284 represent Public Enrollment and 3 represent Private Enrollment for a total of 287. Heather explained the amount for Total Low Income is 265.6. This number is derived from a mathematical formula. This year, all of the K8 Title I schools are participating in the Community Eligibility Program (CEP), which is part of the Free & Reduced Meals Program funded by the Department of Agriculture. All students in these schools receive free meals. This eligibility is based on the number of students in the building that are directly certified as a result of their participation in a Federal program such as TANFF or SNAP. Since the number of students that are directly certified is lower than the actual poverty rate based on typical Free & Reduced Meals numbers, we are able to use a formula to get a better estimation of the poverty rate in the school. We multiple the number of directly certified students by 1.6 and that gives us a poverty rate of 92.9%. In some cases, using this formula will result in a calculation that exceeds 100%. It is okay to go over 100 but we will stop at 100%. Heather explained with the feeder pattern, some schools will report 100% poverty because they use census data (instead of Free & Reduced Meals data). Bands of poverty remained the same from the previous year for Lowell and Franklin, however, Russell and Hawthorne switched places. This means Russell's allocation is higher than last year. Yellow is the highest band of poverty and green is the lowest band of poverty. In the red box at the top of the budget page is the average teacher's salary. The average salary for elementary teachers is higher than high school.

Title I Community Advisory Committee Meeting

February 23, 2015

MCPS Admin Building, Room 14

6:00 to 7:30 PM

Page | 4

Heather stated she felt the No Change budget was the worst case scenario. She is hoping to not need to use the 2% decrease at the Meeting of Practitioners.

The High School No Change budget was discussed. Tracy Ledyard asked about the numbers for High School SES. She wanted to know how many students have utilized this service. Connie will get the SES numbers to Tracy Ledyard at Hellgate High School. Heather stated we are looking at academic interventions that could potentially be offered at high schools such as Reading Plus, Compass and Ed Ready. She explained Ed Ready, offered free of charge by the Montana Digital Academy, only includes math right now and does not include advanced math. There was a question about Math 180. Heather stated we are considering Math 180 for Hellgate. Seena Demmons stated the cost for 30 Math 180 licenses is about \$39,000, to include set up and everything needed for the first year.

The Homeless count of 16 represents Sentinel students only as well as the N&D number. Heather pointed out that the per pupil amount at the high school level is significantly lower. It is half the money with the same number of students as K8. The feeder pattern is used to determine the poverty rate at the high schools. Poverty data is analyzed from all schools that feed into the MCPS high schools. Heather explained she looks at geocodes and actual location of attendance to determine poverty rates at the high schools. Sentinel's poverty rate has increased from last year, as have the other high schools. Heather speculated that this increase is due to the Community Eligibility Program (CEP). Tracy Ledyard asked Heather to explain the reasoning to place Hellgate and Big Sky in different bands of poverty since they are only two percentage points apart. Heather stated she made that decision based on the amount of available funds. This is also the reason Heather chose not to fund Sentinel. Heather said with additional funding, we might be able to put the buildings into the same poverty band.

Amanda Dellwo wanted to know more about how the schools determine how to allocate Title I funds. There is a FIT and Check and Connect at Willard and it is important for those services to be funded at Willard. Heather explained we have an instructional coach at Willard. We have a FIT coordinator at Willard. We have purchased iPads through Title I for Willard. We have purchased calculators with Title I funds for Willard. We have chosen to not fund technology with Title I funds any longer because there are double the student to computer ratio at Willard than any other building. Heather explained there are smaller classes at Willard. They are capped at 12. Amanda Dellwo explained there are limited services because there are so many students whose needs are not being met. Julie explained Jane Bennett is a member of the Collective Impact Community group. Heather thought the unaccompanied youth at Willard is a big part of the problem. Most often it is mental wellness related. Heather asked if there was a CSCT program. Amanda stated there is no CSCT at Willard. She feels there are too many gaps. Julie Robitaille explained Jane Bennett can request these services. Heather agreed there should be CSCT - at least three programs.

Title I Community Advisory Committee Meeting

February 23, 2015

MCPS Admin Building, Room 14

6:00 to 7:30 PM

Page | 5

In terms of FTE staffing, Willard is in-and-of itself an intervention and class size is capped at 12. Title I has 15-18 students in their classes. Julie Robitaille commented that we need to find a way where we can meet student needs at Willard without using Title I funding. The biggest need at Willard is social services. Would a social worker help? Yes, most likely it would, but Title I is not a funding source for this. Heather discussed the Tumbleweed Program in Billings. She was not impressed with their model as they are not serving very many students. Tumbleweed is a community program. Amanda Dellwo will discuss the need for a CSCT program with Jane. Amanda Dellwo will figure out what the appropriate channels are and will continue to seek out all avenues. Julie Robitaille feels we are getting better at MBI and RTI and hopefully we can get this to where in the future there will not be this problem.

Amanda Dellwo asked how the Title I high schools could support their students at Willard. Julie Robitaille thought we have a more systems approach throughout the district. She thought a systems approach could help wrap services around the students. Heather feels the FIT/FRC coordinators have done a lot to support students.

There is an Assessment Institute this summer and Willard was invited.

Heather explained if she could make FIT coordinators a full-time position she would but she cannot afford it.

Heather asked if there were any more questions regarding the budget. No one had any further questions.

INSTRUCTIONAL COACHES MODEL: Previously we have had four Instructional Coaches who served Title I in the District. That changed in August where we hired someone for each region. Two of these coaches were Title I coaches and one has since resigned and taken a position at the university. Heather stated she asked HR to post the position for Instructional Coach and was told she was unable to hire a new coach this late in year. At this point, Seena Demmons is the only Title I coach. Heather explained she met with the coaches and re-envisioned the positions as our district has grown and changed over the past few years, as have our needs.

As our district has changed and grown in the last five years, we talked about placing a half-time instructional coach in all of our Title I schools except for Seeley and Willard. Seena can serve as a half-time instructional coach and also serve as the instructional coaching facilitator. The coaches will be hired at each building and work side-by-side with their principal. The building coach will be a member of that school's team. All of the principal's think it is a great idea. Hiring will occur this spring. Seena will go to Hellgate and Willard. The hiring will start in buildings first during the spring arena.

Seena and Heather will review the job description. Position will be open to in-building hiring first. Julie Robitaille was excited about the change, but thinks the model of half-time teacher and half-time coach is tricky

Title I Community Advisory Committee Meeting

February 23, 2015

MCPS Admin Building, Room 14

6:00 to 7:30 PM

P a g e | 6

because of their team model. Brian Bessette explained it will be tricky at their school also because he will have to hire another half-time teacher. Heather explained there will be credibility in the buildings. The coaches know the teachers and the students.

Seena Demmons felt we have struggled with the evolution of the instructional coaching model for quite a while and with each phase there have been improvements. This year has been the exception. Relationships with the principals are key and so is consistency.

Julie Robitaille explained the only concern her staff had was if the funding is coming from the district, what is the continuity? Heather explained their contracts will be honored. If funding were cut, they would not be cut because of their contract. This is very similar to the way the FRC/FIT coordinators are funded. These are positions that are funded at the district level and cannot be cut by principals from their building budgets.

Heather reviewed the Plus/Delta responses from her meeting with Title I principals. Heather would like to do this more often. Sindie will be doing the Plus/Delta in the non-Title I schools. Everyone reviewed the Plus/Delta report. Heather explained there is an average salary for paras but we will actually use the real hourly rate. Connie will check into the para at Hellgate in terms of the number of hours that person is authorized to work and the number of hours that person actually works.

Heather suggested that at the Meeting of Practitioners that she had Julie Robitaille do a role play about this new Instructional Coach model.

Heather asked all attendees to complete the Exit Tickets.

Next meeting will be April 28, 2015.